

SPRING/SUMMER 2012

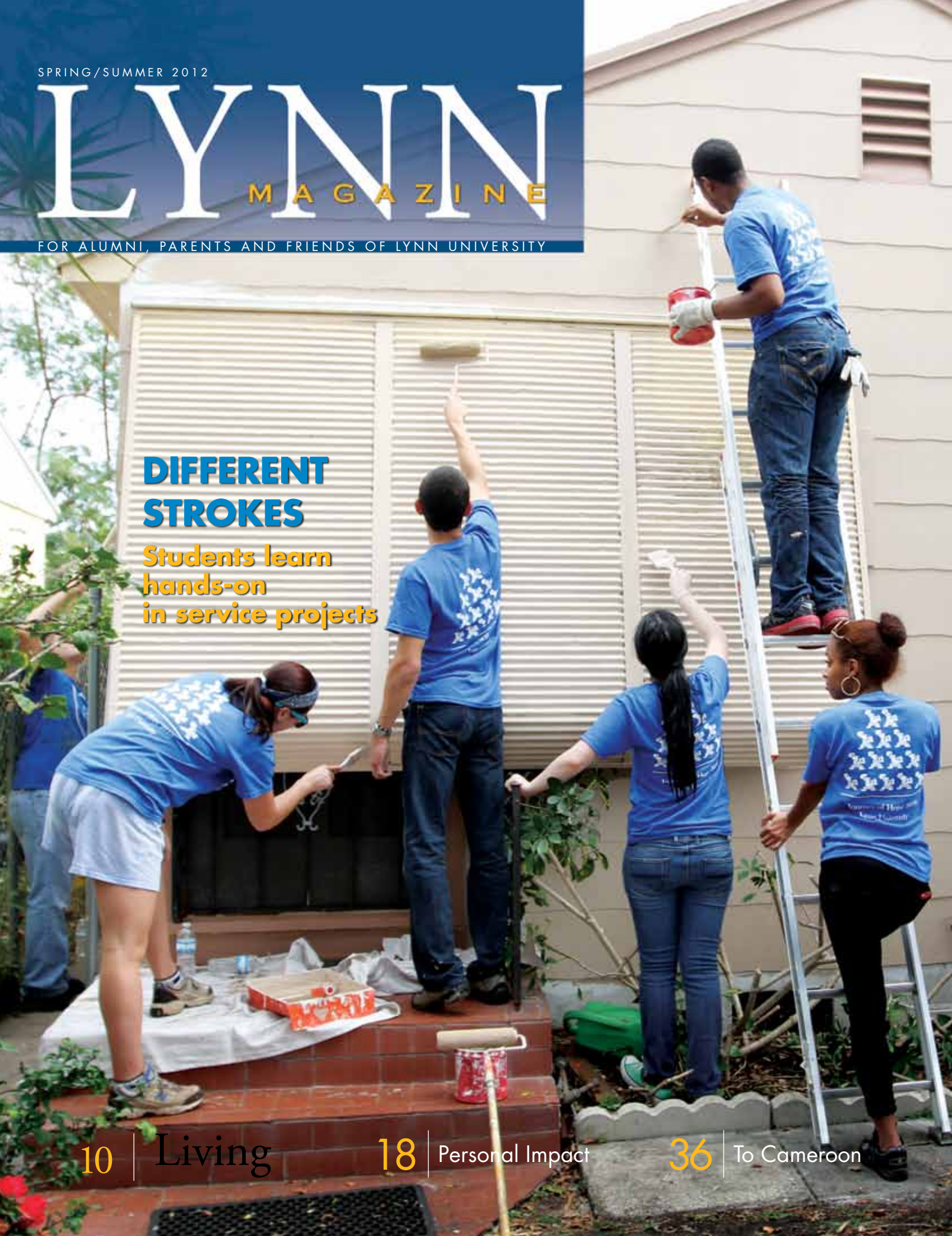
LYNN

MAGAZINE

FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF LYNN UNIVERSITY

DIFFERENT STROKES

Students learn hands-on in service projects



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Living

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Personal Impact

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To Cameroon

A world of possibilities

Kevin M. Ross
President

The alumni and students portrayed in this issue are living proof of something I often say about Lynn University: we're a campus of doers.

That passion for making a positive impact goes all the way back to our roots, with the founding nuns of Marymount College. When they wanted to help educate the children of local migrant farm workers, for instance, they created the Self-Help Program and secured \$250,000 in federal funding. Then, joined by students, they went to work.

When Marymount fell to financial hard times, another one of our founders, my father, President Emeritus Donald Ross, arrived on the campus only to buy library books, but ended up staying for decades. Struck by the beauty and potential of the school, he restructured the debt and renamed it the College of Boca Raton. There were still challenges ahead, but with the support of my mother, Helen Ross, the founding nuns, and the faculty and staff, the college continued to develop and grow each year.

Now, nearly a half-century later, I'm proud to see this same mix of dedication and innovation in our alumni and students. They remind me of the words of our 2012 commencement speaker, Peter Diamandis, founder and CEO of the X PRIZE Foundation that awards millions of dollars to those who dare to make the impossible possible: *"What are the greatest challenges of this planet that you want to solve? The thing that matters most, more than anything else, is your heart, your passion, your mind. ... If you can find that passion and tap into it, anything is possible."*

As we look to our 50th anniversary this coming academic year, there is no better time to celebrate our collective achievements and the amazing ones still to come.



MICHAEL PRICE

LYNN MAGAZINE

Editor's Note

Good citizens

If you've ever wondered whether one person really can make a difference in the world, I'd like you to meet a few people featured in this issue. All are Lynn alumni who are following their own path in making a positive impact, whether it's locally or globally:

- **James Taylor** '05, '09 (page 18) is an entrepreneur and former Lynn basketball star living in Boca Raton who has created enterprises to help young athletes achieve success on and off the basketball court.



- **Chris Sangiacomo** '93 (page 20) spends "vacations" away from his Buffalo, N.Y., landscaping business doing manual labor to help those less fortunate around the world.



- **Jean-Marc Alexandre** '11 (page 23), a pro soccer player with the San Jose Earthquakes, is developing a soccer academy for boys back in his hometown of Verrettes, Haiti.



- **Aron Gunkelman** '09 (page 36) is a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon. Instead of taking a "regular job" after earning his business degree from Lynn in 2009, he was eager to help others and experience a new part of the world. He's changed lives—including his own—in wonderful and unpredictable ways.



Come to think of it, that's something that Lynn's freshmen are doing, too, as part of a brand new January Term course launched in 2012 (see story beginning on page 16). They're learning the true meaning of citizenship as they explore critical issues such as environmental sustainability, homelessness and urban renewal—in the classroom and hands-on through community service.

Liz

—Liz McKey, editor

(FEATURES)

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TEACHABLE MOMENTS

This fall, students will see American history in a whole new light, as Lynn hosts a presidential debate and offers dozens of new courses focusing on American politics and the debate itself.

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CITIZENS LYNN

The concept of "citizenship" comes to life for Lynn's entire freshman class, through a brand new January Term course called The Citizenship Project: Commitment to Community.

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DRIVEN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Can one person make a difference? Without a doubt. Meet James Taylor '05, '09 and Chris Sangiacomo '93, two dedicated individuals who are helping to make the world a better place—each in his own way.



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On the cover: Lynn students have ample opportunities to give back through service projects, including painting homes, on the annual Day of Caring in January and in the new freshman January Term course, The Citizenship Project: Commitment to Community (see story on pages 16-17). (Photo by Gina Fontana)

Lynn University Mission and Vision Statements

Mission - to provide the education, support and environment that enable individual students to realize their full potential and prepare for success in the world

Vision - to be recognized as one of the most innovative, international and individualized small universities in America

SPRING/SUMMER 2012 VOLUME VIII NUMBER 2

Editor Liz McKey

Art Director
Barbara Scheer

Assistant Editor Debbie Stern

Staff Writers
Chad Beattie, Joshua Glanzer,
Joyce Shello, Laura Stephens '08, '10

President Kevin M. Ross

**Vice President for Marketing
and Communication**
Michele M. Morris

**Vice President for Development
and Alumni Affairs**
Judith L. Nelson

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Lynn Magazine is produced for alumni, parents and friends by the Office of Marketing and Communication at Lynn University, 3601 N. Military Trail, Boca Raton, FL 33431-5507
e-mail: lynnmagazine@lynn.edu
www.lynn.edu/magazine

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The Remembrance Plaza: Forever honoring six shining legacies

More than 1,000 people gathered March 16 at the heart of campus for academic and dedication ceremonies honoring the four students and two faculty members who died in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti while performing community service as part of a January Term class titled *The Journey of Hope*.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends looked on as Lynn presented honorary and posthumous degrees for the late professors and students, and dedicated the Lynn University Remembrance Plaza—a place of contemplation, hope and inspiration, shimmering with light, water and iridescent stone.

The ceremonies began with a procession of Lynn University officials, board of trustees and faculty members in full academic regalia. Dimensional Harmony, a nationally recognized choir from Boynton Beach Community High School, sang “America the Beautiful.”

President Kevin M. Ross welcomed the many who gathered beneath a clear blue sky on the lawn adjacent to Perper Plaza. “Today we not only recognize the academic accomplishments of these six outstanding individuals, but also celebrate their personal accomplishments as well. *The Journey of Hope*

and each of its members will forever be an important part of the Lynn story, and today we ensure that their lives and legacies are never forgotten.”

Vice President for Academic Affairs Gregg Cox read proclamations to present the Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa* degrees to the families of Richard Bruno, former assistant professor in the College of Liberal Education, and Patrick Hartwick, former dean of the Ross College of Education.

Speaking on behalf of the Bruno family and her own, Allie Hartwick, daughter of Patrick Hartwick, said, “Lynn University will always hold a special place in my heart. It was here that my father and Dr. Bruno made their greatest friends and accomplishments and were given their greatest opportunities. They exhibited teamwork and camaraderie in the most trying times and were able to make a true difference in life. I hope this memorial will inspire everyone to make a real change in the world.”

Academic degrees were conferred on the four students, with each of their families accepting:

- Stephanie Crispinelli, Bachelor of Arts, Human Services, College of Liberal Education

- Britney Gengel, Bachelor of Arts, Communication, Media and Politics, Lynn College of International Communication

- Christine Gianacaci, Bachelor of Arts, Communication, Lynn College of International Communication

- Courtney Hayes, Bachelor of Science, Biology, College of Liberal Education

The mothers of each student shared remembrances of their daughters—Britney, Courtney, Stephanie and Christine.

Said Cherylann Gengel, “Brit was an advocate for the underdog, a voice for those who didn’t have one. She had blue eyes like the beautiful stone in this plaza, and as the prisms shine on, so will her spirit.”

“Courtney was an angel among us,” said Angie Hayes. “She loved her Facebook, and before leaving for Haiti, she wrote, ‘It’s 32 degrees in Boca; I’m off to sunny Haiti to save the world.’”

Lin Crispinelli recalled daughter Stephanie as determined “to change the world, one child at a time. ... She lives on with every life she has touched.”

Jean Gianacaci spoke of her daughter Christine’s beautiful singing voice and sharp wit. “We thank God every



HELENA SUBA



GINA FONTANA



HELENA SUBA



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day for Lynn, who helped our daughter understand the possibilities were endless. Here, she blossomed and came into her own."

The next words came from one of Haiti's own, Lynn student Gwendoline Darguste, whose school, Quisqueya University, was destroyed in the 2010 earthquake. Darguste was awarded the Briggs Family Haitian Scholarship.

"Coming to Lynn has been the most heartwarming experience," Darguste said. "My fellow students and I share a connection because we're all part of the Lynn University family. This plaza will serve as a daily reminder for us to live lives of service and carry on the legacy."

President Ross then officially dedicated the Lynn University Remembrance Plaza as "a memorial where [the students' and faculty members'] spirits and their stories will always remain alive right here at the heart of our campus."

Following a closing prayer, faculty members formed the pathway as family members were the first to enter the Remembrance Plaza, where the Journey of Hope will always live on.



GINA FONTANA

Scenes of the day: (above, from left) one of the diplomas conferred posthumously on the students; the plaque on the south side of the Remembrance Plaza telling the story of the Journey of Hope; (previous page, from left) President Kevin M. Ross delivers remarks; Kelly Bruno (center) accepts an honorary degree and proclamation for her late father, Richard Bruno, from (left to right) Vice President for Academic Affairs Gregg Cox, President Ross, business Professor and Associate Dean Ralph Norcio, and board of trustees Chair Christine E. Lynn; Jean and John Gianacaci, followed by other family members and guests, walk along a pathway flanked by faculty members to the plaza; reflections of visitors in the prisms; (below) a heartfelt message flown at the conclusion of the ceremonies.



HELENA SUBA

About the Plaza

Not long after the tragedy in Haiti, planning began for a fitting tribute to those lost, and after 296 days of construction, an incredible vision became a beautiful reality.

The plaza was designed by Luis Sousa of Sousa Architecture, Inc., of Miramar, Fla., and constructed by Gerrits Construction of Boca Raton. The plaza's striking blue-green granite was selected by Charles Urso and donated by his company, Marble of the World. The more than 4,000 feet or 60,000 pounds of granite originated in Madagascar and was cut and polished in Italy.

The plaza's features include:

- **six prisms**, each representing one of the lost individuals
- **six steps** arranged with one large, four smaller and one large, representing the two professors surrounding and protecting the four students
- a **perpetual waterfall** cascading from the memorial's roof onto the six steps
- **six flowering trees** blooming with the color of friendship: yellow
- a **bas relief map** of Haiti and a royal palm, the national tree of Haiti
- a **plaque** telling the story of the Journey of Hope
- an **overlook** with a meditation bench funded by the 2012 Class Gift
- a **wall of the blue-green granite** carrying an inspirational quote and list of leadership donors
- **six additional benches**, one in front of each prism

The plaza was made possible by 637 gifts totaling \$1,035,705. Fundraising continues to meet the final cost of \$1,725,640 and to endow the project for its care and maintenance into the future.



HELENA SUBA

Business dean launches innovation challenge

Thomas Kruczek, dean of the College of Business and Management, has launched the Howard Isaacson Innovation Challenge to teach Lynn students how to develop an innovative idea for a new product or business, research it and pitch it to a group of investors.

The startup costs for this project were made possible by Jeremy Office '11 in honor of his grandfather, an entrepreneur.

"Innovation is one of the most important business skills to have today," Kruczek says. "It's important that our students have the opportunity to learn about it while here at Lynn. This contest will teach them how to do research, talk to clients and pitch an idea. Rather than another business plan idea, we want them to come up with a novel idea that can really work as a business."

First-place winners take home \$5,000; second place wins \$1,500 and third place gets \$500. The College of Business and Management has developed a new course, BUS 397, that will start this fall semester specifically to help students prepare for the contest—although they can still participate without



"Innovation is one of the most important business skills to have today."

— Thomas Kruczek

taking the class. The deadline for entries is Jan. 25, 2013.

Judges will review submissions to determine what proposals make it to the semifinal round. Contestants must give a 20-minute presentation and leave 15 minutes for questions from the judges. The judges will then decide who makes it to the final presentation round to be held on April 25, 2013.

Kruczek focuses on teaching entrepreneurship skills such as good writing, presentation skills, critical thinking and ability to obtain a holistic view of how a business works because he feels business innovators and people who think like entrepreneurs will be best equipped for America's future business culture.

"A lot of companies are talking about innovation, but it's more than just coming up with a new product," Kruczek says. "It's innovation in how to motivate employees, how to grow, how to hire more people, how to become more profitable."

 See related video at lynn.edu/magazine.

Making an entrance (actually, two)

With several major events coming up—including hosting the third and final presidential debate on Oct. 22 that is expected to draw 8,000 to 10,000 people to Boca Raton—Lynn officials have already put plans into action, starting with construction on a new front entryway.

The renovation and upgrade of the university's main entrance on Military Trail will include a traffic light—a campus safety need—and five lanes for better traffic flow. Robert Sheetz of Boca Raton, Fla., pledged \$1 million to make Lynn's new front entrance a reality.

"This will be the first impression that potential students and their families have of our campus," says President Kevin M. Ross.

In addition to a new front entrance, Lynn also is developing a new entrance to the university on Potomac Road and a back perimeter road that will include the relocation of the existing nature preserve to the western edge of campus. Relocation of the preserve and a new entrance, roadway and guard shack are required before continuing construction for the campus' master plan development.

Benjamin Olewine III of Harrisburg, Pa., and Boca Raton, has pledged \$1 million to create this new entrance. The newly named Benjamin Olewine III Preserve, home to Florida scrub—the oldest plant community in Florida—will provide a living laboratory for the study of this ecosystem



HELENA SUBA

Heavy-duty: The construction machinery rolled onto campus in the spring to begin work on Lynn's new entrances.

(considered an imperiled plant community by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory) including seven animal species and 40 plants listed as rare, threatened or endangered.



Hemingway's haunts: Students Michelle Mueller (top photo, left) and Alexa Greenberg with Hemingway statue at one of his favorite spots, the *Floridita*; (second photo) Hemingway's writing tower.

J-Term class explores Hemingway's Cuba

"In Hemingway's Cuba we will visit settings from his fiction, haunts from his glory days, and Cuban cultural sites during this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study an American Nobel Prize winner on an island Americans have had little or no access to for over 40 years. ..."

It's difficult to imagine a more enticing course description, and it's no wonder that 12 Lynn students raced to sign up for English professors John Daily and Jeff Morgan's January Term travel course, Hemingway's Cuba. Daily is a Hemingway scholar and a member of the Hemingway Society.

Before making the six-day, five-night trip, students read *To Have and To Have Not*. Once in Cuba, they read *The Old Man and the Sea* and a portion of *Islands in the Stream*, discussed the works, kept journals and took quizzes. And, of course, they visited sites connected to Hemingway, such as his beloved home, *Finca Vigía*, now a museum.

"It's almost like Graceland," Daily says of the degree of reverence people hold for the literary icon's estate. The home is on 14 acres overlooking Havana and includes a guesthouse and pool. Hemingway's restored fishing boat,

the *Pilar*, is on display there as well.

While in Cuba, the group stayed at the *Hotel Nacional* in the center of Havana and traveled by bus to various locations. Because of travel restrictions, they visited only sites related to Hemingway; that meant no unrelated tourist stops. They still, however, had the chance to take in the architecture and cobblestone streets.

"In Havana, there's this great whiff of the 1950s. It's almost like a time warp," Daily says.

And Morgan wanted to see it before it all changed. "I felt this window could close at any moment," he says.

So did Michael Slavin '12, in selecting the course for his last J-Term at Lynn. "I felt it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," says the new multimedia journalism graduate. "Also, I love traveling and have traveled to exotic places ever since I was a freshman in high school."

But what left the biggest impression on Slavin were the Cuban people themselves. "It was their attitude toward Americans," he says. "Overall, they loved seeing us in their country and were incredibly nice to us."



See more photos at lynn.edu/magazine.

Visiting scholars: Among the class's stops during their six-day stay in Cuba was the University of Havana.



Fast-track to a graduate degree with the 3+1 program

First came Lynn's popular 3.0 program giving qualified students (except for music and education majors) an accelerated track to an undergraduate degree in three years. Now Lynn has unveiled the 3+1 program, which will offer students even more academic and career value. Essentially, qualified students can now earn their bachelor's and master's degrees in four years, saving tuition and entering the job market sooner.

"Today's students are entering an extremely challenging job market, and a graduate degree can provide them a distinct advantage," says President Kevin M. Ross. "We considered this and the national conversations about the value of a college education when we started designing both the 3+1 and 3.0 programs."

The Lynn 3.0 program began in the fall 2010 and was limited to 20 students. These students have already saved an estimated \$45,600 (in tuition, fees, room and board, books, transportation and personal expenses), compared to the cost of a four-year degree. Because of this program's success, it will be open to all qualified incoming freshman in fall 2012.

For more information, contact the Office of Admission at 1-800-888-5966 or 561-237-7900.



See related video at lynn.edu/magazine.



FJ GAYLOR

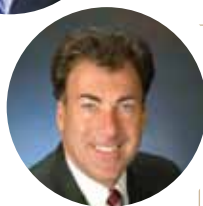
A new role for Cox: Gregg Cox has been appointed Lynn's vice president for academic affairs. In more than 30 years at the university he has served in a variety of positions—mathematics and computer science instructor, mathematics department chair, dean of freshmen, women's golf coach, arts and sciences dean, Conservatory of Music dean, education acting dean and academic dean. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Florida and a Master of Education degree, Education Specialist certificate and a Doctor of Education degree from Florida Atlantic University.



Glines shines: Marsha Glines, dean of the Institute for Achievement and Learning, has been honored as a trailblazer in the field of special education by earning the Lewis Hine Award for Service to Children and Youth. She was one of six professionals in the nation selected for the honor. Given by the National Child Labor Committee, the awards are named for the acclaimed NCLC photographer who documented early-20th century exploitation of children. At Lynn, Glines directs one of America's leading programs that serve college students with Asperger's, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and other learning and neurological disabilities.



Debate duo: Jason Walton, chief of staff, and Gregory Malfitano, senior vice president of administration, have been appointed co-chairs of Lynn's 2012 presidential debate planning committee. Both have been involved in the early stages of bringing the debate to Lynn. Walton oversaw the creation of the school's application to the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) and organized university and community leadership for the first official visit by CPD staff. Malfitano provided information about the physical spaces and facilities for the event. He has overseen nearly every aspect of the school's operations, including the construction of the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center, site of the presidential debate. Read more at debate2012.lynn.edu.



Welcome to the board:

Jill Levenson, associate professor of psychology and human services, has been appointed to the editorial board of *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, a top-ranked scholarly journal published by Sage. It serves as a bridge between academics, policymakers and practitioners by publishing research that addresses important issues in crime and justice, and examines the implementation and effectiveness of criminal justice policies, programs and practices.



Seed of hope: Khalique Ahmed, professor of chemistry and physics in the College of Liberal Education, says oilseeds can help solve world hunger. The seeds (such as sesame, sunflower, soya and some nuts) are grown as a source of oils. After the oil is extracted, the residue is a valuable source of protein. Ahmed has written a scientific paper on the subject, titled "Overview of Scientific Methods for the Assessment of Oilseeds Nutrients," and he attended an international conference on agricultural productivity in Accra, Ghana, last December. The conference, sponsored by the Royal Society of



Chemistry, focused on how the chemical sciences can help feed the world. "Oilseeds play an important role in meeting nutritional needs," says Ahmed. "On a per gram basis, they provide two times more energy than proteins and carbohydrates. They are also a good source of micronutrients including vitamin E, sodium, potassium, calcium, phosphorous, magnesium and zinc."

One phrase says it all: 'All Styles Welcome'

It's reflected in Lynn's new admission communications, lynn.edu and, even, the admission office lobby—it's Lynn's new recruitment marketing campaign, based on the message of "All Styles Welcome."

The campaign is the result of Lynn's collaboration with Mindpower Inc., an Atlanta-based marketing and advertising agency, which conducted scores of focus groups with faculty, staff and students.

"The theme is authentic," says Gareth P. Fowles '99, '01, vice president for enrollment management, "because it came from us here at Lynn who all expressed the same idea: We're a different kind of institution of higher learning that defies one label or style. We're 50 years young. Our students are uncommonly diverse. We embrace different styles of learning. There's no one

'type' of student at Lynn—thus, 'All Styles Welcome' describes us perfectly."

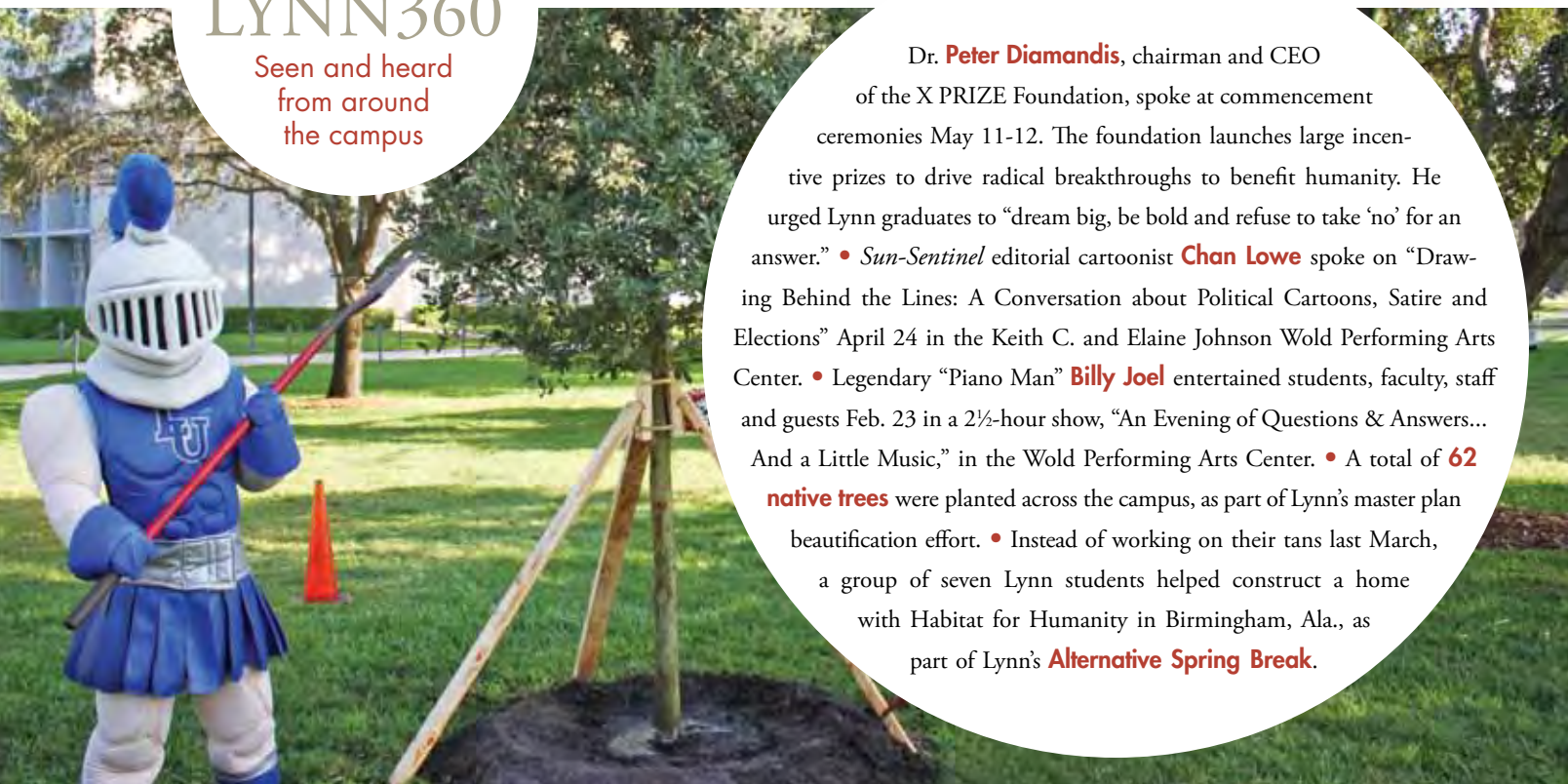
Expanding on the creative concept are "Styles" stories in videos, online and in print—ads, postcards and Lynn's viewbook. There's even a lively, brighter blue accenting it all.

"We've had a great response to the campaign—not only from prospective students and their families, but also from faculty, staff, and current and former students who know us best—our alumni," says Michele M. Morris, vice president for marketing and communication. "That's a strong indication that we've captured the true essence of Lynn."



LYNN360

Seen and heard
from around
the campus



Dr. **Peter Diamandis**, chairman and CEO

of the X PRIZE Foundation, spoke at commencement ceremonies May 11-12. The foundation launches large incentive prizes to drive radical breakthroughs to benefit humanity. He urged Lynn graduates to "dream big, be bold and refuse to take 'no' for an answer." • *Sun-Sentinel* editorial cartoonist **Chan Lowe** spoke on "Drawing Behind the Lines: A Conversation about Political Cartoons, Satire and Elections" April 24 in the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center. • Legendary "Piano Man" **Billy Joel** entertained students, faculty, staff and guests Feb. 23 in a 2½-hour show, "An Evening of Questions & Answers... And a Little Music," in the Wold Performing Arts Center. • A total of **62 native trees** were planted across the campus, as part of Lynn's master plan beautification effort. • Instead of working on their tans last March, a group of seven Lynn students helped construct a home with Habitat for Humanity in Birmingham, Ala., as part of Lynn's **Alternative Spring Break**.

New York comes to Lynn in fashion show

Lynn's fashion management students hosted the 9th annual spring fashion show April 24 in the Louis and Anne Green Center on campus. Billed "I Love New York," the show highlighted ensembles and defined styles from New York's five boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx and Staten Island. The "sixth borough" featured South Florida looks that were designed, crafted and modeled by Lynn fashion students.

Twelve students were charged with producing, directing, staging and marketing the show, right down to its striking red patent leather catwalk. More than 50 students, staff and faculty stepped up to be volunteers and were cast as models for the show.

 See related video at lynn.edu/magazine.

New York style: Lynn models took to a red patent leather runway before an appreciative audience at the "I Love New York" fashion show. (Clockwise) Lauren Cecchi and Rachel Lauren Campbell in dresses, Elyse Fleck in flowing pants, and Fleck getting finishing touches before showing another winning look



FASHION SHOW PHOTOS BY GINA FONTANA



Google us

On May 4, the Google Street View crew was at Lynn University, mapping Lynn's roads and sidewalks to provide Web users with a 360-degree view of campus. According to Google, they are producing street-level maps for all universities hosting a presidential debate in 2012.

Lynn students, staff and faculty wearing official debate T-shirts gathered with mascot Big LU in locations around campus for the mapping.

On campus roads, Google representatives drove a colorful Street View car (left), but to map Lynn's sidewalks and pedestrian-only locations, they used a Street View trike (above)—a convergence of human power with advanced digital information gathering.



JOE CAREY

Ask the Professor

A Five-Minute Interview with a Lynn Professor

VALERIA FABJ, COMMUNICATION

Valeria Fabj (pronounced FAH-bee) is a professor and the program chair of Communication, Media and Politics in the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn College of International Communication. She also directs the Master of Science program in Communication and Media. She has taught at Lynn since 2001 and is an expert on communication and advocacy with an emphasis on how traditionally marginalized groups can gain a public voice and bring about social change. She teaches courses in communication theory, rhetoric, persuasion, gender communication and social change. In 2009, she was named editor of *Women's Studies in Communication*, the journal of the Organization for Research on Women and Communication. She was named Faculty Member of the Year by her peers for 2006-07 and 2009-10. Fabj holds B.S., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Northwestern University.

What inspired you to study communication?

I wanted to major in history, but my dad didn't think it was sensible. I remember I brought the academic catalog home, and it opened to communication. I said, "What about communication?"

He said, "Yes! You'll be a news anchor." That's how it started. Then, when I took classes—especially in the rhetoric of social movements—I fell in love with the field. My interest in history blended well with that. We had courses in the rhetorical history of the United States, focusing on how messages—speeches, documents and the like—were constructed and how those messages affected history. That really fascinated me.

What are some things that people would be surprised to learn about you?

My father was the CEO of Olivetti, and we lived in Italy, Peru and Canada. I speak Italian, Spanish and English, and dream in all three. My last name, Fabj, used to be "Fabi." I can trace my family back to about 477 B.C.



"I like to get students involved in discussion, and I try to challenge them to think differently."

How would you describe your style of teaching?

Interactive. I like to get students involved in discussion, and I try to challenge them to think differently. ... One of the things we do in class is debates. Communication is closely aligned with debate, so it's a natural fit.

You must be excited about Lynn hosting the final presidential debate on Oct. 22.

Yes. How often do you get that kind of an opportunity? To think that students are going to see first-hand a political event of this magnitude...it's really exciting.

I understand that you have a humorous debate-related story.

In 1992, I was teaching in Boston, and *The Boston Globe* asked me to serve as a political expert for the vice presidential debate. They called in the afternoon, and the debate was that evening. They told me to watch it and they'd call me immediately afterward. So, I got my notebook and turned on my television shortly before the debate. There was no picture or sound! So with about 10 minutes to spare, I knocked on neighbors' doors and finally got someone to lend me a little black-

and-white TV. I was able to watch the debate and give *The Boston Globe* my comments.

You met your deadline.

Well, yes. They were counting on me. I was going to get it done.

—Liz McKey

HOSTING A 2012 PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE NOT, ONLY PUTS LYNN UNIVERSITY IN THE WORLD'S SPOTLIGHT; IT CASTS A NEW LIGHT ON STUDENT LEARNING, WITH NEW FALL COURSES FOCUSING ON AMERICAN POLITICS AND THE DEBATE ITSELF.

By Liz McKey

This fall, Lynn students will experience one of the rarest events in American higher education: a presidential debate on their campus. And not just any debate—Lynn will host the third and final verbal sparring of the candidates on Oct. 22, just 15 days before Election Day on Nov. 6.

To help students make the most of this unprecedented learning opportunity, Lynn's professors have created scores of new courses and tailored many existing ones to focus on American politics and the presidential debate. But first, students will have the most difficult task of all—choosing, with titles like *Why Women Should Vote*, *The Presidency on Film*, *George Washington's America*, and many more (see sidebar on page 13).

In addition to delving into important issues, the new classes will make the most of Lynn's nationally acclaimed Dialogues of Learning core curriculum—which emphasizes reading, real-world relevance and discussion.

"We worked to marry deep examinations of our political system with our unique curriculum," says Gregg Cox, vice president for academic affairs. "We think the resulting courses will ensure we leverage the hosting of the debate to make our students think hard about politics in America and how the process does affect them, their families and their community."





HELENA SUBA

WOMEN AND THE VOTE

Those teaching goals align perfectly with Karen Casey's new course, *Why Women Should Vote*. "In designing this course," says the criminal justice professor, "I wanted to make the political process and voting relevant to students. I want them to understand the struggle for women's rights, and I want to put it in the context of history, so that they understand where we have come from."

One assignment Casey is considering will have students look into their own family history for political involvement. They might discover a great-great-grandmother who was one of the first to vote in her town or a grandmother who marched for women's rights.

The new course is a natural for Casey. "I've been interested in women's issues ever since college, and I've benefitted from the women's movement." She says she hopes that students who take the course leave with a deeper appreciation for the rights women have today. And the ultimate message she wants to convey? "Don't take your rights for granted. Get involved. Care. Understand."

Women's issues have long been an interest of criminal justice professor Karen Casey (shown above on campus raising awareness of violence against women). Casey will teach the course *Why Women Should Vote*.



EMPOWERING TEACHERS

ask education professor Priscilla Boerger about the two debate-related classes she's designed for the fall, and her eyes sparkle with excitement. "Let me tell you about Teaching Social Studies," she begins. "In Florida we have the FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test), and teaching to the test is a huge issue. As a result, students have lost so many critical pieces of a daily school experience. They've lost the arts, music, physical fitness time and social studies."

"So," she continues, "my question to students will be: 'Is that an issue?' I personally feel it is. It has a huge impact on my students in terms of their future. As teachers, they're put in the position that their students have to perform well on that test, or they could lose their jobs."

Boerger hopes that the class will boost students' awareness of issues affecting them as future educators. She says, "I tell my students, 'Nobody is as important as you. Make sure that everything you believe in and are passionate about comes across in the classroom.' I encourage them to have that mindset in their career from the very beginning, as freshmen."

And it is freshmen who will be taking her *Introduction to Education*, a course she has retooled with the upcoming election year in

"I tell my students, ... 'Make sure that everything you believe in and are passionate about comes across in the classroom.' I encourage them to have that mindset in their career from the very beginning, as freshmen."

—PRISCILLA BOERGER



mind. “We’ll focus the entire semester on the government’s responsibility to education and who should be making the decisions. Should it be the government—whether it’s state or federal—or should it be the people in the classroom?”

Boerger thinks those questions will generate some lively discussions. In the end, she says, “I want our education students to know they have a voice, and I want them to leave here encouraged to use it. I want them to be advocates for the students who will be our future leaders.”



HELENA SUBA

Education professor Priscilla Boerger speaks with students after a class. “I want our education students to know they have a voice, and I want them to leave here encouraged to use it,” she says.

So many choices

Lynn faculty members have designed more than 80 courses relating to the upcoming presidential debate on campus. (See full listing at debate2012.lynn.edu.) Here is a sampling of the offerings for fall 2012:

- ★ **Rude Democracy—Words, Sticks and Stones.** A survey of the rhetoric and debates that have shaped and formed democratic institutions through the history of the West.
- ★ **Lincoln-Douglas Debate.** An examination of the series of debates between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas on major issues of the day such as slavery, states’ rights and the Dred Scott decision by the Supreme Court.
- ★ **Setting the Tone: Presidential Oratory and the Bully Pulpit.** A study of the presidency and those who have held the position through an examination of their words.
- ★ **Securing the President.** An examination of the methods and techniques of presidential protection from the earliest beginnings to the current high-tech procedures in use both on ground and on Air Force One.
- ★ **Poetry of Protest.** A study of works with war, race and social/political themes.
- ★ **Alternate Energy—Alternate Fuels in Today’s World.** An introduction to the history and technological developments of energy, its use, its origins and its status on the planet.
- ★ **Science and Election Year Policy.** A discussion of how politics can influence the debate of public health care, science ethics, abortion, contraceptive rights, evolution, global warming and stem cell research.
- ★ **The Silver Screen and the American Dream.** A study of the American Dream and its many interpretations as expressed by an American original—Hollywood.



Presidential security is one of many topics to be covered in Lynn’s new courses this fall.

2012 LYNN UNIVERSITY
DEBATE
 BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION—LEARNING!

Students will gain a new perspective of our nation's top leader in liberal education professor Steve Aiello's course, *The Presidency on Film*. Aiello will use biographical films such as Oliver Stone's *W* and *Nixon*,

and Ron Howard's *Frost/Nixon*, and humorous and serious dramas including *Fail Safe*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *Primary Colors*, *Dave* and *The American President*.

Of the fictional movies, Aiello notes, "There seems to be a thread that runs through many of them, and it's the conflict between what makes an ideal president and what makes a president corrupt....I think all students can recognize that we're put into positions sometimes in life where we're thrust into a position of leadership and our moral choices and ambitions can sometimes cloud our ideals. We'll see the



Steve Aiello, a professor in the College of Liberal Education, will draw upon his background in drama, theater and dramatic literature in teaching his courses.

presidents as real people in that context."

For another of his classes, *Is Life Worth Living?*, Aiello will turn to a "real person"—philosopher William James, who asked this question of his students at Harvard over a century ago. "James first argued why it's not unreasonable to believe that life has no meaning or purpose, and then he convinced them why life is always worth living," Aiello says. "We'll explore the ideas of James and other philosophers as we ask this question again."

Aiello is looking forward to teaching these courses and the excitement that the debate will bring to campus this fall. It all fits his teaching style. "I try to allow for surprises," he says. "I have a lot of faith in students' knowledge. I let class discussions go into places where sometimes I don't know the answers."

UP FOR DEBATE

Business professor Farideh Farazmand is taking one of the biggest issues in the upcoming election—the economy—and blending it with debate skills in her macroeconomics course.

"I incorporated a mock debate on campaign agendas of Republican and Democrat candidates in my three sections of macroeconomics for spring 2012," she says, "and I'll repeat the assignment for my fall classes. On each issue, two groups of students will research, debate and write a paper."



"I hope my students will follow the campaigns of the candidates and get involved in the voting process."

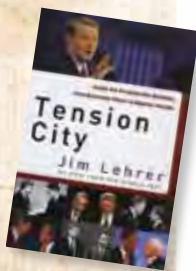
—FARIDEH FARAZMAND

Richard M. Nixon will be among the former U.S. presidents covered in Steve Aiello's course, *The Presidency on Film*.



Freshman Reader

In keeping with the fall debate-related courses, Lynn has selected Jim Lehrer's *Tension City* as the common reading for the 2012-13 freshman class. Former anchor of the *PBS NewsHour*, Lehrer has moderated 11 presidential and vice presidential debates. In the book, he gives a behind-the-scenes account of the debates—from Kennedy-Nixon in 1960 to Obama-McCain in 2008. Lehrer visited Lynn last year to deliver the Dively Frontiers in Globalization Lecture.



The goal, according to Farazmand, is for students to become more proficient in verbal communication, writing, and critical and analytical skills, while also becoming more aware of today's issues.

"I hope my students will follow the campaigns of the candidates and get involved in the voting process," she says. "And I hope this course will enhance not just their learning and skills, but also their behavior—to become more

responsible citizens."

HISTORY COMES TO LIFE

One of the people most excited about the upcoming debate on campus is American Studies professor and program coordinator Robert Watson.

"I don't view this as an opportunity for Lynn to host a debate," he says. "From my perspective, it's an opportunity to host a year-long civic engagement initiative for our campus, as well as area schools and the larger community."

Watson's energetic and creative teaching has earned him Outstanding Teacher of the Year honors at Lynn, and he is a popular speaker in the community and a political analyst for the news media. He's also a widely published presidential scholar.

With education professor Priscilla Boerger, he produced a guide for middle and high schools to integrate the debate into the curriculum. Closer to home, at Lynn, he'll be teaching two debate-related courses: The President's Partner: The First Ladies and Women's History, and George Washington's America.

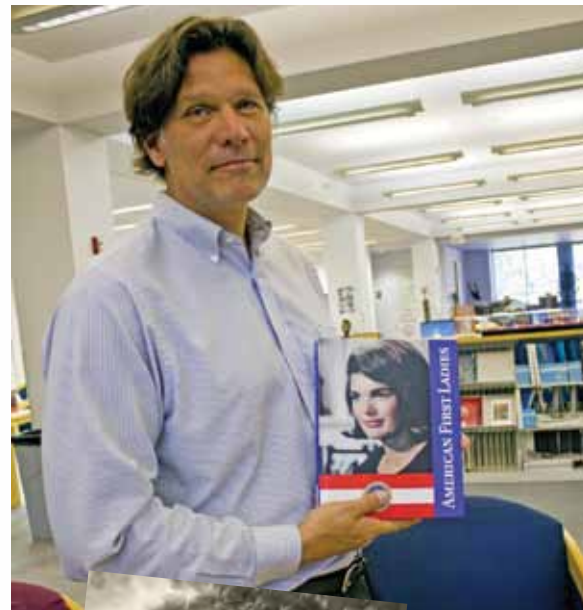
Business professor Farideh Farazmand will focus on a key issue in this year's election—the economy—as well as debate skills in her macroeconomics course.

For his course on the first ladies, Watson will focus on the very people who had a "front row seat to history." His rationale for studying the first ladies is the same one he gave years ago at a scholarly conference. "The problem," he recalls telling the attendees, "is that history focuses on the hard things—the cannons, the castles and the crowns. None of us have been educated in the 'heart and hearth'—the day-to-day matters of what we ate, the customs, raising kids, cooking. The day-to-day is more defining than one battle. But we will skip hundreds of years of day-to-day to focus on one battle. ... By knowing the first ladies, we can know more about the presidents, and that helps bring the presidents to life for us, not as a president, but as a husband and a father."

In his course on Washington, Watson is sure to make the first U.S. president come to life for students, too. Like the best history teachers, he'll do it with great storytelling, providing fascinating insights into Washington's life and character. And his semester-long tale will wind its way from Colonial life and the coming revolution all the way through forging a government.

It will be just one of many novel ways students will learn while witnessing history being made at Lynn this fall. And all of it will be something for *them* to tell about for many years to come.

Historical images courtesy of the Library of Congress Digital Print and Photograph Collections.



HELENA SUBA



Professor Robert Watson (in top photo with book he authored) will be teaching a course on the first ladies, including Martha Washington (depicted at Mount Vernon in second photo above). Watson also will teach about America during the time of George Washington (above left).





CITIZENS LYNN

MOST PEOPLE THINK OF CITIZENSHIP AS A BIRTHRIGHT, BUT, AS LYNN'S FRESHMEN DISCOVERED DURING THEIR 2012 JANUARY TERM, IT ENTAILS SO MUCH MORE.

What does it mean, truly, to be a citizen?

Lynn's entire freshman class explored this question in the classroom and in service projects during a new January Term created especially for them called The Citizenship Project: Commitment to Community.

Held the 2½ weeks between the fall and spring semesters, the J-Term involved every segment of the campus, with 22 courses taught by 22 faculty members who were assisted by a like number of staff members and upper-class students serving as peer mentors.

"In creating this project, we defined citizenship as having the knowledge, skills and abilities to understand, take responsibility for and to act within the political process and one's community," says Anna Krift, associate professor of international relations and a co-director of the project with Phil Riordan, vice president for student life. "And that's what we aimed to teach students in every one of our courses."

Krift herself taught a course titled Scattered, Smothered and Covered: Human Impact on Florida's Coastal Habitats. "My students looked at how they as citizens can lessen human impact on sea life and take a stand for the local environment," she says.

Environmental sustainability was just one of the themes students explored. Others included homelessness and urban renewal. Lynn partnered with Boca Raton's Gumbo Limbo Nature Center, Habitat for Humanity, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, the Solid Waste Authority and the United Way, so that students could gain firsthand knowledge of these critical issues.

The hands-on component especially appealed to Gary Pelletier, a business administration major from Rocky Hill, Conn., specializing in aviation management. Pelletier, who took professor Robert Watson's course on Environmental Stewardship, says, "Dr. Watson took us on nature walks throughout South Florida, and I learned why it's important to preserve our ecosystems."

Pelletier learned about everything from trees to sea turtles—and the impact of humans on them. "It was kind of a wake-up call," he says. "Because of The Citizenship Project, I changed the way I live every day." As one example, he's much more aware of conserving water. And, while Pelletier was a volunteer in his hometown before coming to Lynn, he gained a deeper appreciation of why it's so important. "The more we can educate students about it, the more people will get help," he says.

Pelletier and his classmates learned more about making positive changes in their community from prominent speakers including former Florida Senator Bob Graham and former CNN foreign correspondent and U.S.-China Institute senior fellow Mike Chinoy. They also heard from a panel of three college Green Movement

Freshmen learned hands-on through exploring nature, helping feed the hungry, building and painting homes, and cleaning beaches.



JILL LEVENS

leaders and a Lynn panel led by American Studies professor Robert Watson on "Can One Person Make a Difference?"

One of the students participating on Watson's panel was Mimi Trinh, a freshman double-majoring in American studies and business administration with a specialization in marketing. Trinh, who was born in Vietnam and now calls Green Bay, Wis., her hometown, holds a Presidential Scholarship at Lynn. For her Citizenship Project, she took professor Joe Greaney's course, The Bill of Rights for the Citizen of the 21st Century.

"Professor Greaney is so passionate about history and social issues," she says. "I really enjoyed the course and learned a lot. During class, we discussed voting, politics and social problems such as gun control." As service projects, Trinh helped make sandwiches for afterschool programs and paint homes in a nearby community.

"IT WAS KIND OF A WAKE-UP CALL. BECAUSE OF THE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT, I CHANGED THE WAY I LIVE EVERY DAY."

— Gary Pelletier



In all, Trinh considers the J-Term a valuable experience, especially with the presidential debate coming soon. "It's very important for students to know about politics and to be able to express their opinions," she says. "Also, The Citizenship Project is a great transition between semesters. We can take a class that relates to our major or explore different fields."

The Citizenship Project came about as part of the university's reaffirmation of its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) this year. As part of that process, SACS required Lynn to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to improve student learning. After seeking input from the entire university community, Lynn chose The Citizenship Project as its QEP topic.

SACS reaffirmed the accreditation of Lynn University for another 10 years, after examining the institution's compliance with 94 principles of accreditation. In addition, SACS approved Lynn's QEP with no recommendations.

SACS is one of six regional accreditation organizations recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. This agency accredits more than 13,000 public and private educational institutions ranging from preschool to college level in the southern United States. Lynn has been accredited by SACS since 1967. To maintain accreditation, a university must undergo a rigorous internal review every 10 years. [LYNN](#)

—Liz McKey



ROBIN ROSELUND

By Liz McKey

Two alumni, 11 years apart. On the surface, two very different individuals. One was a student-athlete, one not.

One from central Florida, the other from upstate New York. But, look deeper and you'll find much in common: a strong work ethic inspired by hard-working parents and a determination to help make the world a better place—each in his own way.

Someone to look up to: James Taylor '05, '09 (left photo) with Taylored Athletes team members and (right photo) Chris Sangiacomo '93 with children he befriended while helping rebuild a school in Haiti in 2011, a year after the massive earthquake there.

James Taylor

Read about James Taylor '05, '09 as a student at Lynn, and it's easy to label him "Mr. Basketball": He led the team to its first and only Sunshine State regular season and tournament championship and helped Lynn advance to the NCAA Division II National Semifinals in 2004-05. To this day, he ranks second in Lynn history for points scored (1,406), fifth in rebounds (512) and fourth in assists (299)—feats that have earned him a place in Lynn's Athletic Hall of Fame.

But he was, and is, so much more than that. At 29, he's combined his love of the sport with business savvy, teaching young people about basketball, character development and lessons his parents instilled in him as a child.

Born in Haines City, Fla., to working-class parents—his dad a mason and his mom an executive housekeeper, he learned early on to work for what he wanted in life. "My parents taught me to work hard and have vision," he says. "They would tell my sister and me every



to make a difference

day, 'Don't worry about where you live; always focus on where you want to go.'"

When as a "scrawny kid," Taylor wanted a basketball hoop, he didn't ask for one; he built it himself—from plywood, a 2-by-4-inch board and an old bicycle rim from which he removed all the spokes. "After cutting my hands a few times on the rim," he recalls, "I went out and searched through some trash piles, found a basketball rim and replaced it."

Before basketball fever set in, he enjoyed science and nature. It wasn't unusual for him to catch a frog, freeze it and dissect it. One day, his mom had quite the surprise when she reached for a package of pork chops to thaw for dinner. Instead, she found a rolled up bag. Taylor smiles and shakes his head at the memory. "She unrolled the bag and said, 'Oh my God, it's a dead frog!'"

Soon, frogs were out, and basketball was in, thanks to an athletic cousin who

was four years older. "He'd wait for me after school at the bus stop and take me to a local gym," Taylor says. "That's when I really started to play."

Escaping to a new world

For a young kid growing up in a tough neighborhood, basketball was more than a game; it was a way to escape. "Where I grew up there was a lot of drugs and gangs," he says. And there was the danger of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, as he found out at 13.

"I was warding off a group of kids who were trying to jump me," he says.

Suddenly, the police were on the scene, and he was in trouble with the law. "It really shifted my focus. I never wanted to experience that again or put my family through that type of embarrassment again."

Another lesson came at the age of 18, when he became a father. "Having a child at an early age was more than

life-altering; it was earth-shattering," he says. Still, Taylor was determined to go to college, but chose to stay in Florida to be close to his daughter, Destiny. He visited Lynn and was impressed, especially after going to the movies one night.

"What sealed the deal for me was the old Muvico Palace [now the Cinemark Palace 20]," he says with a grin. "I'm not a movie buff, but that theater was like a new world I had never seen before—with a red carpet out front, valet parking, and Rolls Royces and Maseratis. ... I said to myself, 'This is the town that I need to be in.' It showed me that there was so much more out there... that people could be so creative and put all those services into a movie theater. I thought, there's no telling what this community might have to offer."

Taylor laughs at the memory, but makes his point: "You've got to focus on where you want to be in the next 10 years of your life after you leave school and on what the community—not just the school—has to offer."



College entrepreneur

So, while Taylor was racking up the accolades on the basketball court, he was also busy in the classroom—from his freshman year through his M.B.A. studies. A business major, he also loved English and was president of the Poetry Club. Asked about his favorite professors, he rattles off a list: from the business school—Ralph Norcio, Grace Greenberg and John Cipolla;



Glory days: James Taylor (left photo) in action as a Fighting Knight and (right photo, at left) proudly displaying a tournament trophy with Taylored Athletes team members and staff

from Liberal Education—Lizbeth Keily and Jeff Morgan; and from the Institute for Achievement and Learning—Marsha Glines (for whom he worked as a graduate student). “These individuals were such proponents of self-expression—know who you are, believe who you are and go do it,” he recalls.

Early on, he discovered his entrepreneurial talent and a like-minded classmate, Felicia Hatcher ’06, who today runs her own successful company, Feverish Ice Cream. The two started a lifelong friendship and a practice of brainstorming business ideas. As students, they founded an educational consulting company called Urban Excellence.

After graduation and playing minor league pro basketball in Roanoke, Va.; Sydney, Australia; and Belarus, Russia, he returned to Belarus to do community service work alongside other athletes with SportsPower International. While working

with kids there, he found the inspiration for his career.

“I kept hearing this voice say, ‘You need to tailor athletes.’” After experimenting with the phrase “tailor athletes,” he settled on “Taylored Athletes,” which eventually became his brand.

When he returned to the United States, he settled in Boca Raton and dove into researching basketball training companies. The result was Pro at Your Door, which he describes as a basketball training concierge service. Taylor and his associates took kids to and from practice and provided one-on-one training. The concept took off, and he soon had a healthy roster of clients.

From there, he created the Taylored Athletes Summer Basketball Camp in 2008.

Also that year, he began providing basketball train-

ing classes in Boca Raton through an agreement with the city. Then he started a basketball academy program in central and South Florida. In 2010, he inked an agreement with the South Palm Beach County YMCAs to deliver “character development sports modules” for at-risk youths. And he’s created Taylored Athletes Elite Travel Basketball Club with teams competing in tournaments statewide.

If that weren’t enough, he established A Taylored Heart Foundation offering programs to help kids stay active and avoid obesity. “I also want to help kids with learning disabilities and low literacy and math proficiency levels,” he says.



Taylor with the 2011 Impact 100 award recognizing top entrepreneurs under age 30.

All told, he’s helping scores of young people, from ages 5 to 18, gain skills and a love for the game of basketball, while also learning about character, responsibility and leadership.

It’s hard work—just like his parents taught him—and it’s gained attention locally and nationally. In November 2011, he was one of 100 young entrepreneurs honored at the White House as part of National Entrepreneurship Month. More recently, he was nominated for the Men With Caring Hearts award honoring outstanding South Florida volunteers. And he was featured in the 2012 Aetna African American calendar and was nominated for the JM Family African American Achievers Award.

But his greatest reward? He thinks of all the young athletes he’s teaching what he learned years ago from his parents: to have vision and know where you want to go in life. He answers, “I’m the owner of more than 10,000 thank-yous.”

Chris Sangiacomo

Most people spend time off from their jobs relaxing—whether it’s a “staycation” at home or a fun trip somewhere. Not Chris Sangiacomo ’93.

The 40-year-old landscaping business owner from Buffalo, N.Y., spends his “vacations” helping people in need wherever his heart tells him to go. It may be poor villages in the Himalayas, Thailand after the tsunami, New Orleans post-Hurricane Katrina or an earthquake-torn Haiti. If he sees a need, he’ll go.

Sangiacomo times these visits during the cold, off-season for his business—January through March. He makes no formal plans, and he mostly travels alone. Typically, he’ll buy his plane tickets a day or two before traveling, and he packs light—with no laptop, tablet computer or even a cell phone. His only exception is a nice camera because he likes photography.

“For me, traveling is about getting away from technology,” Sangiacomo says. “Having everything at my fingertips and spending time with my head down looking at a phone or computer



Chris Sangiacomo (left photo, front row, center) with Buffalo, N.Y., high school students, a parent and local community members at a school they worked on in Oneville, Haiti; (right photo, at left) building onto a home in Duluge, Haiti

"I know if I can get myself in places where there's a need, I'll find a way to connect with people. It's worked every time."

— *Chris Sangiacomo*

screen just dilutes the senses. I'm not into that. I'm just trying, as much as I can, to connect with the lifestyle of where I go."

Hotel reservations are out, too. "I've found that when you put yourself into a situation, you'll figure it out," he says. "I know if I can get myself in places where there's a need, I'll find a way to connect with people. It's worked every time."

Mostly, that means camping out near where Sangiacomo is working. In Haiti, where he's visited five times since the 2010 earthquake, he stays in simple quarters with a friend he made on his first trip there.

"We go out and try to help people medically, or most recently, to reconstruct a school," Sangiacomo says. "I didn't build the original. It was built right after the earthquake. It's not big, and it's only 2-by-4s and plywood, but every morning, over 200 kids show up for class and raise the flag to start the day. We added on a wing last year."

A bond...like family

What brought Sangiacomo to Haiti in the first place was more than responding to another disaster and human suffering—it was his Lynn ties.

"After the earthquake," he says, "I immediately started making arrangements to go there. ... I saw that Lynn students and professors were missing,

and I couldn't believe it. I didn't know them, but I felt a connection from just going to the same school. It's a bond you always have. It's school spirit. It's like family."

Sangiacomo was able to visit the site of the Hotel Montana, where the Lynn group had been staying. He wasn't permitted to work with the search and rescue team, but he did meet some of the military personnel who were working there. And he met the hotel owner. "She was heartbroken and devastated by what had happened—not to her place, but by the loss of life."

Sangiacomo was able to bring back a small piece of the hotel and gave it to a former Lynn professor of his, Diane DiCerbo. "My hope was that if I could bring something back and give it to the school...maybe it would help people by giving them a [tangible] connection."

And that it will, and for all time. Now that the Remembrance Plaza is built, that small fragment of the Hotel Montana—where the Lynn students and professors made their home base during their trip to help and feed the poor—will soon be added to the beautiful place at the heart of campus that tells their story. (For more about the plaza, see pages 2-3.)

Lynn memories

Sangiacomo has his own Lynn story. Part of a middle-class family, he paid his way through college. In the beginning, he hoped to join the men's golf team, but found working plus practicing golf and studying too difficult. So, he focused on his studies.

"I did well at Lynn," he recalls, "but I failed the first test I ever took. After that test, I remember I was walking

down the sidewalk coming back toward what was then Patton Hall. I stopped and told myself, 'I'm paying for my education. This is my chance to start my life off on the path that I really want it to be on. I want to know that when I leave here that I'm better off than when I came.' It was the first week of school, and it was a defining moment for me. I'll never forget it. I wound up graduating with around a 3.7 cumulative average, and I had to work at it."

Hard work—and hope—seem to drive Sangiacomo, whether it's in his landscaping business or his desire to help others. "I believe there's always a way," he says. "I think I got a lot of that from my family. Growing up, I can't remember other people working at my parents' house. My dad fixed everything—the roof, the car—and he did it with a full-time job."

At 40 and after a decade of his "working vacations," Sangiacomo hasn't slowed down a bit. This past spring, he traveled alone to work in Peru and then, for the first time, took along a couple of high school students and a parent to help out again in Haiti.

"One of the things I told these kids was, they'd get out of it what they put into it," he says. "At the end of the day, you know if you really gave 100 percent or 50. It's about personal accountability."

To him, the work is personal, and it's not for publicity or to pat himself on the back. "I'm nothing special," he says. "Actually, I think I'm kind of the norm. I just use the abilities that I have. I've got the ability of taking time because I can create my schedule. Aside from that, anybody can swing a hammer. It's as simple as that, really." LYNN

Five inducted into Athletics Hall of Fame

Lynn honored four outstanding former student-athletes and a legendary former coach at its annual Athletics Hall of Fame ceremony April 26. Those selected include:

- **Nicolas Boisvert** '07, baseball, who helped the Fighting Knights make their first NCAA Tournament appearance in 2006. He became the first to garner First Team All-America honors from three publications, ABCA/Rawlings, Daktronics and the NCBWA, and to be recognized as the Sunshine State Conference (SSC) Player and Male Athlete of the Year for baseball.

- **Carrie Meyer Richardson** '74, women's tennis. Recruited by women's professional tour pioneer Peachy Kellmeyer to Marymount College in 1973, Richardson won the women's national collegiate singles championship in 1974. She played professionally for eight years on the women's tour, rising to No. 14 in the world. She also competed in World Team Tennis as a member of the Indiana Loves. She was inducted into the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Women's Hall of Fame in 2010.

- **Jannie Nicolaisen** '01, '03, women's soccer. Nicolaisen helped LU achieve three NCAA tournament appearances, including the program's first NCAA National Title, and fourth overall, in 1998. In that season she was honored as the SSC Player and Female Athlete of the Year and was named the NSCAA National Player of the Year.

- **Christina Rolla** '07, softball. Rolla holds Lynn career records for batting average, home runs, total bases, slugging, runs batted in, runs scored, walks and on-base percentage. Among her many awards were First Team All-America selection, three-time All-SSC honoree, SSC Player of the Year and SSC Silver Anniversary Team selection.

- The late **Shaun Pendleton**, head men's soccer coach from 1991 to 2008. During his 17 years at Lynn, the program accumulated a 293-42-12 mark, with two national championships (1991 and 2003), three national runner-up finishes, six SSC titles and 14 postseason appearances.



Among those honored were (left) the late Shaun Pendleton, former head men's soccer coach, and (above center) Carrie Meyer Richardson '74 shown with brother Robert Meyer and Athletics Director Kristen Migliano '97, '00.

Lynn announces two women's sports, head coach

Lynn University has added women's cross country and women's swimming as NCAA Division II athletic programs. The additions make for a total of 13 NCAA varsity sports—eight women's and five men's—at the university.

The new programs are slated to begin NCAA competition during the 2012-13 championship season.

Niki Alvarez has been named head coach for both programs. She

has more than 12 years of coaching experience at the collegiate level, most recently having served as men's and women's assistant swimming coach at Florida Atlantic University. She also is a four-time USA Triathlon All-American and holds a USA Triathlon Level I coaching certification. Alvarez holds an M.S. in sports management from Florida State

University and a B.S. in sociology from the College of Charleston.



Niki Alvarez is head coach for both new programs.

CHAD BEATTIE

"We look forward to swimming and cross country student-athletes joining Lynn University this fall, and providing them a quality student-athlete experience commensurate with competitive NCAA Division II athletics," says Lynn Athletics Director Kristen Migliano '97, '00.

The swimming program will train on campus at the newly renovated West Pool at the McCusker Sports Complex, while the cross country team will practice in various Boca Raton and Palm Beach County parks, local golf courses and along State Road A1A.



JEAN-MARC ALEXANDRE: Sharing a love of soccer in Haiti

Major league soccer midfielder Jean-Marc Alexandre '11 has never forgotten his roots: his birthplace of Verrettes, Haiti. With his father, Jean Alexandre—a former Haitian soccer player—he

created the Jean Alexandre Football Academy while still a student at Lynn. Its mission: to teach young Haitians the sport while providing a positive influence in their lives.

It's an influence the younger Alexandre knows well. With his family, he moved to Delray Beach at the age of 9 and, a few years later, became a soccer standout at Atlantic High School. At Lynn, he was the first Haitian-born player to earn a soccer scholarship and was a four-year letter-winner. As a senior, he produced 23 goals and seven assists for 53 points in earning All-America accolades as well as Sunshine State Conference Player and Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Recently, Lynn sports information director Chad Beattie spoke with Alexandre about his trade from the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club to the San Jose Earthquakes and his ongoing charitable work to help his homeland.

How are you enjoying San Jose?

I love it. The weather is great, and we have a really good team.

Tell me about the organization you started in your native Haiti.

The organization is a soccer academy made up of 39 kids between the ages of 15 and 18. We provide soccer equipment and enroll the kids in the third division soccer amateur league. The organization is quite unique; we provide these kids with a recreational program—the beautiful game of soccer—to keep them from getting into trouble.

Where did you come up with this idea to start a soccer academy?

I went to Haiti with my dad in January 2004, and I remembered playing soccer with two little kids on the street. I thought to myself, "These kids are really good, but it's unfortunate that there is no such thing as youth soccer in Haiti." My dad is really the one who came up with the idea that we should have an academy for little kids. That way, they can stay out of trouble. And hopefully, it could be a way for them to travel beyond Haiti through the sport of soccer. We put the idea into action in 2007.



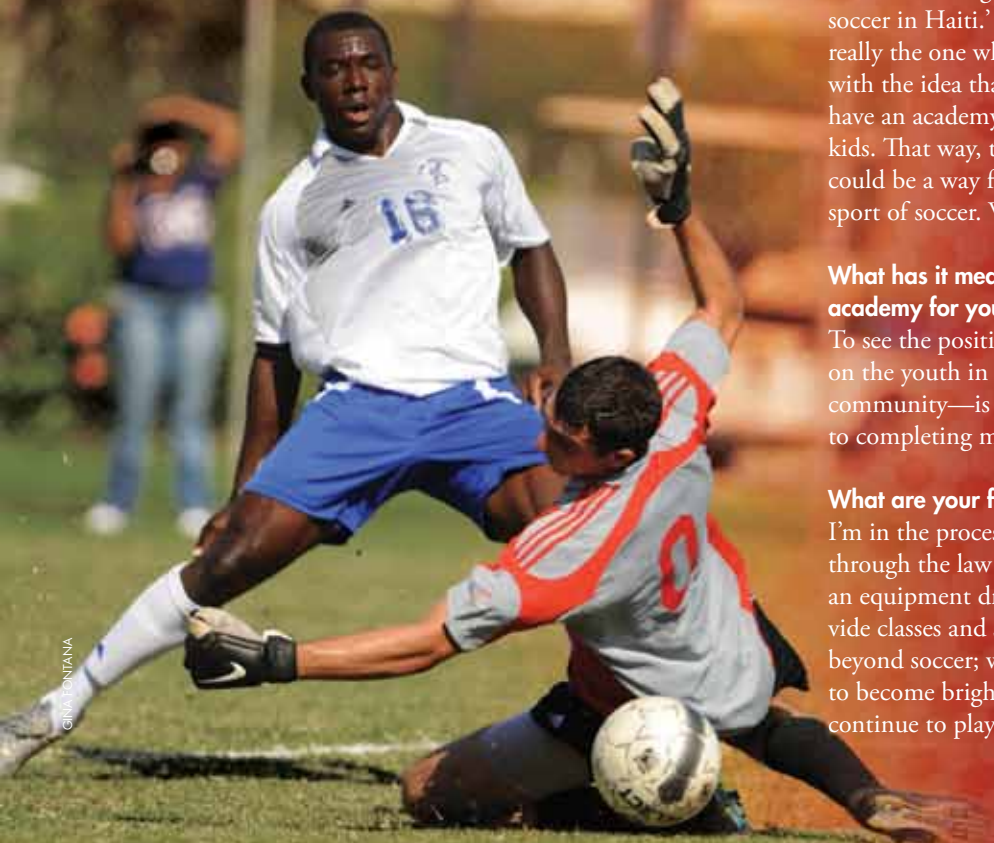
On the ball: Alexandre playing for (above) the San Jose Earthquakes vs. the Portland Timbers and (lower left) the Fighting Knights vs. the Florida Southern Moccasins

What has it meant to you to see this realization of a soccer academy for youths in your home country?

To see the positive impact that this academy has—not only on the youth in my hometown of Verrettes, but also on the community—is one of the things I'm proudest of, in addition to completing my [sports management] degree at Lynn.

What are your future plans for your organization?

I'm in the process of getting nonprofit status for the academy through the law firm of Baker & McKenzie. I hope to have an equipment drive in the winter. Other plans are to provide classes and schooling within the academy. Our goal is beyond soccer; we want to instruct and prepare these youths to become bright young men in society, whether or not they continue to play soccer afterwards.





Judi Nelson (center) with donors to the Remembrance Plaza (from left) John and Marla Ordway, Robin Cartine and Amanda Cartine '10, at the dedication on March 16.

GREETINGS

Our commitment to global citizenship

The theme of this magazine—citizenship—directly correlates with Lynn's core curriculum, *The Dialogues of Learning*, which prepares students to be responsible, informed and ethical citizens.

On March 16, we dedicated the Remembrance Plaza—a permanent campus memorial for those lost in the Haiti earthquake, and a constant reminder to students, faculty and staff of the importance of giving back.

As host for the presidential debate on Oct. 22, the university is in a position to engage our students and local community in dozens of courses, seminars, speakers and activities that demonstrate and cultivate involved citizenship. As the eyes of the world are on us, and the story of the university is told globally, we celebrate with you.

This could not happen, however, without the support and engagement of alumni, parents, grandparents and friends who believe in Lynn University and its mission.

Judi Nelson
Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs

Christine Lynn makes first gift in honor of university's 50th anniversary

Christine Lynn, chair of the board of trustees, has made a gift of \$500,000—the first gift in honor of the university's upcoming 50th anniversary. This milestone celebration will take place during the 2012-2013 academic year.

"It's been thrilling for me to watch Lynn's growth," she says. "Year after year, it just keeps getting better and better. I am proud to be a part of that process, including the university's hosting the final presidential debate on Oct. 22. I look forward to a wonderful year of celebrating all the university has accomplished over these last five decades."

Christine Lynn, along with her husband, the late Eugene M. Lynn, has supported the university's immediate

needs and scholarships. They also contributed to numerous campus capital projects, including the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Library; the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Residence Hall, the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center and the Lynn University Remembrance Plaza. Since Eugene's passing in 1999, Christine carries on his philanthropic



Christine Lynn

legacy that benefits various nonprofits, particularly in the fields of health and education.

"We are grateful for Mrs. Lynn, her love for the university, and for her dedication to its mission and vision," says President Kevin M. Ross. "She leads the board of trustees with vigor, wisdom and enthusiasm—and always as an example and a pacesetter. The university is privileged to receive

this gift from her in honor of our 50th year as an educational institution in Boca Raton."

With our new website it's easy to make an annual gift.

1. Visit give.lynn.edu and click on **Guide to Giving** and then **Annual Giving**.
2. The Annual Giving page shows you all the areas where your annual gift will make a difference. Just click on each **icon** to learn more about that area. And then click **Give Online** to make your gift.

Let us know what you think. Send comments to sharrington@lynn.edu.

Thank you for supporting Lynn University.



give.lynn.edu



Alumni Weekend 2012 brought more than 400 alumni back to campus March 30-31 for their annual 48 hours of reconnecting, reminiscing and enjoying perfect South Florida weather.

The festivities began with the Welcome Back Reunion on Friday evening. Food trucks, spread out on the Wold Center lawn, offered all sorts of goodies from tacos, sliders and Sloppy Joes to ice cream sandwiches, cupcakes and mini crème brûlees.

Spirits were high at the annual soccer game where alumni are pitted against the current soccer players. The “young ones” claimed the cup this year.

After the game, the teams and spectators joined their friends and families at the Picnic by the Pool for an afternoon of fun, food, music and kiddie pools.

The weekend’s closing event was held at The Dubliner in Mizner Park where alumni had cocktails and hors d’oeuvres as they made plans for the remainder of their night.



WELCOME RECEPTION

1. (front) Amrei Smith '07, '10, Jeff Johnson, Lynnette Johnson '04, Matt Claiborne '04, '11, Tim Jensen '10
2. Matthew Jaeger '99, Sheila Sheppard '98, '09
3. Megan Vanderhorst '10, Joel Vanderhorst '06
4. Mabell Valette '12, Wole Ajayi '12
5. Ashley Nelson '06, '08, Justin Cohen '06, Koran Lang '06, '07, Jessica Springborn '06, Stephanie Mellor '06
6. (front) Chistine Thibodeau '09, Leah Lennox '08, (back) Erin Hollington '08, Tara Hollington
7. Brittany Evernden '10, Alicia Romeo-Gallo, Amanda Romeo Gallo '10, '11, Natalie Feller '10, Edward Kerkhoven
8. Dulce Menedez, Mike Clyburn '05, '08, Adam Harper, Ilya Sasov
9. Lynette Hidalgo '09, Mark Adamson '06, '09

welcome reception



4



5



6



7



8



9

Soccer Match:
Victors Johnny
Mertl '14 and
Ryan Birch '12



Alumni Weekend 2012

picnic by the pool



PICNIC BY THE POOL

1. Suzanne Kostyk '81, Patricia Breeding '81
2. Tiffany McDaniel '97, Emi Hanado '96, '00, Christine Dinges, David Fromhold '99, '07
3. Gustavo Pardo '82, '85, Geraldyn Muller '81
4. A few members of the College of Boca Raton Class of '81
5. President Emeritus Donald E. Ross and President Kevin M. Ross (center) with Ainsley and Graham Ross
6. Awaiting a creation from the "balloon lady"
7. Abigail Boldt '96, '98, Marlisse Testa '96, Jordan Serlin
8. Lauren Elliott '09, Tova Brown '11 and Lauren Fry '10, '11
9. Joseph Sullivan '81, Matthew Roos '08, Joe Giacalone '81
10. Vicki Bauer, Kerry Kushner '91
11. Anupa Ballard-Harjani '10, '12, William Ballard '06, Matthew Preston, Rowan Hughes
12. Ali Sam, Trent Stierwalt '07, Leslie Gladney, guest, Kyle Gladney '09, '11
13. Karolina Souza '08, '10, daughter Julia





SAVE THE DATE

Alumni Weekend

March 21 - 23, 2013

Mark your calendars now for March 21-23, 2013, when we combine Families Weekend with Alumni Weekend and add a spectacular celebration commemorating the university's 50th anniversary.

This is something you won't want to miss!



Marymount College



College of Boca Raton



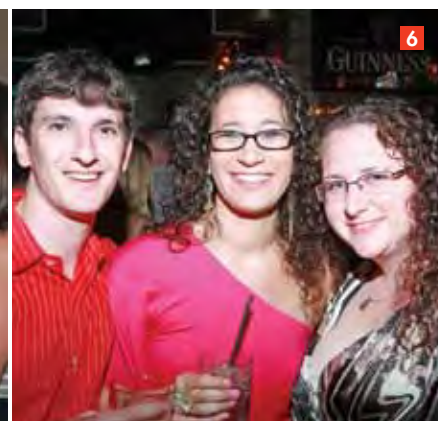
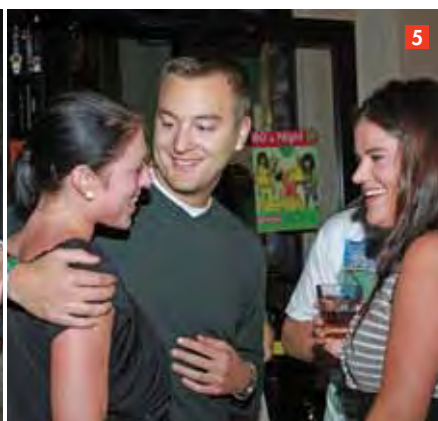
Lynn University



Alumni Weekend 2012

party at the dubliner





DUBLINER

1. Pamela Gene, Kristen Peterson '08, David Burns '06, Jessica Lennon
2. Sam Ali, Trent Stierwalt '07, Kyle Gladney '09, '11, Leslie Gladney
3. Erika Schwartz '11, Ryan Sharman '08
4. Holly Exsteen, Shaun Exsteen '93, '98, Jay Brandt '99, '01, Laura Thal '03, '06
5. Jennah Ackerman '09, '11, Scott Plumb '09, '10, Stephanie Clark '06
6. Mark Schencker '08, Lauren Carr '08, Stephanie Clark '06
7. Jennifer Barrett '12, Christopher Edwards '08, '09, Carly Doerrer, Jonathan DiMarzo '09
8. Paul Muir '00, '01, Ross Lumsden '04, '05, Jay Brandt '99, '01, Shaun Exsteen '93, '98
9. Angela Sanchioni '08, '10, Lauren Elliott '09, Tova Brown '11, Allison Pass '09
10. Ryan Brooks '11, Timothy Cappelli '10, Katie Black '05, '10
11. Lauren Boothby '10, Caroline Killing, Rachael Autiello '10
12. Ryan Sharman '08, Steven De La Torre '09, Niquay Johnson '09
13. Julia Jinishian '08, Cristine Thibodeau '09, Leah Lennox '08, Mark Schencker '08, Erin Hollington '08, Tara Hollington, Allison Kastner '09, Stephanie Clark '06
14. Brandon Weitzman '08, '09, Anthony Marino '09, '11, Jessen Xavier '09

From Boca Raton to Shanghai, here are updates from Lynn alumni worldwide.

1983

Gregg McBride, a writer living in Hollywood, Calif., is now a contributor to *The Huffington Post*. He also was featured recently on the *Today* show with Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb. He has written for MTV and Disney and sold several screenplays. He is currently developing a new one-hour drama he created for ABC Family. He is the author of the book *Just Stop Eating So Much* and maintains a related blog, <http://juststopeatingsomuch.com>.



Club in Boca Raton. They live in Boca Raton with their two miniature dachshunds, Peanut Buttercup and Caramel Swirl, and serve as volunteers with the Dachshund Rescue of South Florida. Elise works as a certified public accountant with her own firm in Lake Worth, Fla., which she's owned since 2005. William is a general manager for Haifa General, a stone and contracting company, in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Ramona N. Franklin practices law at her firm, the Law Office of Ramona Franklin and Associates, in Houston, Texas.



1991

Todd A. Maxey is the owner of Associated Spec Group, which provides architects and manufacturers resources ranging from Web-based applications and tools to writing product guide specs. He is also principal at Associated Spec Consultants, a specifications consulting firm. In addition, he owns TJ Maxey Enterprises, which purchases and rehabilitates old buildings.



Caroline Bowers Evans lives in Timonium, Md., with her husband, Billy, and three children, William age 11, Sadie age 2 and Jack age 1.

2000

Lisa G. Kaputa, a teacher at Hammock Pointe Elementary School in Boca Raton, was one of two Lynn graduates named Teacher of the Year by the Boca Raton Rotary Club on May 27. She also earned a Master of Education degree from Lynn in 2009.

Andréia Brunstein Schwartz and her husband, Dr. Steven Schwartz, became parents for the first time on March 9 with the birth of their daughter, Gilah. Andréia also earned an M.B.A. in international business from Lynn in 2003.

2001

Summer Parr Bochicchio, a teacher at Eagles Landing Middle School in Boca Raton, was one of two Lynn graduates named Teacher of the Year by the Boca Raton Rotary Club on May 27. She holds two M.Ed. degrees from Lynn (varying exceptionalities with ESOL endorsement, 2003, and educational leadership, 2006).

2002

Megan Bubb Cribb and husband Christopher became parents of a daughter, Elizabeth Lynn ("Ellie"), on June 12, 2011. Megan sells residential real estate with Reece and Nichols Realtors in Kansas City, Kan.

1994

Danielle Gray married Donald J. Bieling Jr. on Nov. 11, 2011, in Norwalk, Conn.

1998

Elise A. Armetta and William Schroader were married on Nov. 11, 2011, at Boca Dunes Golf & Country



2004

Roosevelt Desrosiers is the author of *Echoes*, a collection of poetic essays and lyrical verses about a range

of subjects including his personal life experiences, love, philosophy, the environment, Haiti, faith, fate, relationships, romance and current social issues.

Roosevelt works in the financial services department of Boca Raton Community Hospital.

Paul J. Pavlica and wife Lauren are proud parents of a baby boy, Quinn Jeffrey, born on Nov. 17, 2011.

Andrea D. Roberson and husband Adam welcomed into the world their first baby, a son, Tyler Clint, on Feb. 20, 2011.

2005

Allison J. Lazarus is a fifth grade teacher in the Palm Beach School District. Last May, she earned her third degree from Lynn: an M.Ed. in educational leadership. She earned an M.Ed. in exceptional student education in 2007.

2006

Scott J. Erdmann is a senior sales consultant with the Dallas Cowboys Football Club in Arlington, Texas.

Nancy L. Holly is assistant principal at Boca Raton Community Middle School. She attended the school in the 1980s before continuing on to Boca High School and Florida Atlantic University. She earned her M.Ed. degree from Lynn.



2007

Jayme Bauman wed Brandon David Moll on Feb. 18 in Delray Beach, Fla.

Matthew Kutz, clinical education coordinator of athletic training at Bowling Green State University and resident, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at the Kigali Health Institute in Rwanda during the 2012-2013 academic year. He earned a B.A. from Anderson University and a M.Ed. and M.S. from the University of Toledo before obtaining his Ph.D. in global leadership from Lynn University.



2008

Tom Ceccarelli has been appointed police chief for Palm Springs, Fla. Previously, he worked for 28 years with the Boca Raton Police Department, most recently as captain.

Anibal Manzano is a research analyst with HBO Latino America. He resides in Miami. He earned an M.B.A. degree from Lynn in 2010.

2009

Katherine Gale is a licensed sales associate with the real estate firm of Nest Seekers International in New York, N.Y. She also holds an M.B.A. (2011) from Lynn.

Amanda L. Harris is hospitality manager in the client services department at The Mill, a visual effects company in New York, N.Y.

Harry Glennon edited a short film that was presented in the Short Film Category at the Cannes Film Festival in May. The film, *Moving Stories*, was directed and produced by Nora Armani of Parev Productions, and focuses on two women whose lives become intertwined by the apartment one is leaving and the other is entering.



Bernard Londoni and his longtime girlfriend, Brigitte Boumuene, were married Jan. 31 in Washington, D.C. They met in a refugee camp in Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Bernard is a former Student Government Association president at Lynn.

He is now pursuing a Ph.D. in conflict analysis and resolution at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.



2010

Steven Colamarino married Kelly Ann McCaffrey March 3, 2012, at The Four Seasons Resort in Nevis, West Indies. Steven is a financial adviser with the Royal Palm Wealth Management Group at UBS in Palm Beach, Fla. Kelly Ann is a development coordinator at Hanley Center Foundation in West Palm Beach. They reside in West Palm Beach.

Scott Gordon, a former member of the Fighting Knights soccer team, has signed a Major League Soccer contract with USA Chivas in Los Angeles. He is expected to serve as a backup for starting right back James Riley and provide added depth at center back. Scott joins former Fighting Knights goalkeeper **Tim Melia '08** on Chivas.

Nojoud Al Hakeem is a graduate student at Florida International University, where she is majoring in public health with a specialization in epidemiology.



2011
Mariya R. Koeva (left) is an admission counselor and recruitment coordinator at American University in Bulgaria. She travels to recruit students from Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Sofia, Bulgaria.

Daniel Priego (above, right) taught English to children in grades 4-6 in

China, before traveling in that country and southeast Asia. He reports that his pupils would often thank him with gifts of fruit, toys and trinkets.

Natasa Stojanovska (right), a pianist who studied at the Conservatory of Music in the studio of Roberta Rust, won first prize in the 2012 Indianapolis Matinee Musicale Collegiate Scholarship Competition. In addition to receiving a cash award, she will be presented in a solo recital in Indianapolis in October. Natasa is now pursuing a master's degree at Indiana University at South Bend as a student of Alexander Toradze.

2012
Michael Aixala (right) has been a U.S. Coast Guard licensed boat captain since 2009. He is also an amateur lamp worker. The Miami native is still considering his career options, but time at sea will always be a passion of his.



Rebecca A. Block plans to pursue a professional degree at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising for Visual Communications in Los Angeles.

Joya N. Cox is traveling for a couple of months after graduation and then will be working at the Intercontinental Hotel in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Amy Desouvre, husband **Yanatha Desouvre '10** and their two daughters, Danielle Nathalia and Reanna Ameline, (below) have moved from South

Florida to Philadelphia, where Yanatha works as an IT support specialist at the University of Pennsylvania. While in South Florida, Amy hosted a popular radio show as X102.3's "Cierra the Midday Goddess" and a Sunday show focusing on community issues. Beyond IT, Yanatha is a performance poet and published author. He recently created four iPhone apps, Proud to be Haitian, Proud to be Jewish, Pocket Poetry and Kids Eat Free HD.



Stay Connected

Share your news (job change, relocation, promotion, marriage, birth/adoption, travel or any other life milestone) with us and your fellow alumni. It's easy:

1. Go to www.lynn.edu/alumni and log in.
2. Click on "Read/Post Alumni Notes"; then "Add New Note."
3. Select your topic and type in your note.
4. Click "Submit."
5. If you'd like to include a photo, email a high resolution (300 dpi) one to alumni@lynn.edu. Be sure to identify all the people in the photo.
6. Please note: your class note/alumni news will be published on the alumni website and in *Lynn Magazine* as space allows.



Matthew S. DiCerbo will be entering Lynn's master's program in criminal justice and continuing to play soccer for the Fighting Knights.

Gamila Elmaadawy is a legal transcriptionist at Donna Albert & Associates in Boca Raton. She plans to take the LSAT and apply to law schools in the Washington, D.C., area, in order to pursue a dual M.A./J.D. degree.



Ann M. Fontanella will be going on a concert tour of the United States as a solo violinist. In total, she will be performing in 30 concerts between November 2012 and April 2013, and she will be doing community outreach in area schools as well as leading master classes.

Aaron Heine is pursuing graduate studies in trumpet performance at Southern Methodist University, which granted him a full scholarship.



Brooke Mastroianni is taking a year off to travel, work and apply to medical schools.

Jennifer M. Schard plans to stay in South Florida and pursue work as an event coordinator at a public relations firm.

Michael Slavin (right) will attend New York University in the fall, pursuing a master's degree in digital and print publishing. He earned a B.A. in multimedia journalism from Lynn.



Lesley C. Tai Cao is traveling to Shanghai to learn Mandarin and teach English for a semester.

Zeus Zambrano is pursuing an M.B.A. in aviation management at Lynn.

Remembering our alumni and friends

Kenneth Feigl of Boca Raton passed away Sept. 24, 2011. He was a native New Yorker and World War II army veteran. Before retiring to Boca Raton in 1977, he was treasurer of Times Mirror Magazines. He served on numerous charitable, civic and cultural



boards and committees, and was a regular contributor to the *Boca Raton News*. Along with his surviving wife, Ruth, he was a Legacy Society donor and was recognized in The Leadership Society of Lynn University for his generous annual support. The Feigls, longtime friends of the university, were often seen on campus and at various Lynn University events, including commencement.

Gretchen Frances Hoener, of Pompano Beach, Fla., and a friend of Lynn University, passed away Oct. 16, 2011, at the age of 103.

Cheresa "Reesy" Nave, a senior from Indianapolis majoring in human services, passed away Jan. 21.

Alexandra Mary Petrozzo '11 of Bernardsville, N.J., passed away Dec. 26, 2011. Known as "Ally," she earned a B.S. in educational studies from Lynn. She was a sister and chapter officer of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority, and often sang "The Star Spangled Banner" at Lynn athletics events.

Norman Rales, a friend of Lynn University from Hillsboro Beach, Fla., passed away March 7. He was a successful businessman, founding Canyon Stone in Pittsburgh and Mid-South Building Supply Company in Washington, D.C., before retiring to South Florida in the 1980s. He was an annual donor to the Lynn University Conservatory of Music.

Christine Anna Bloechinger Schnyder '69, of Columbus, Miss., passed away Oct. 14, 2011.

A good citizen in Cameroon

It's no surprise that **Aron Gunkelman '09** entered the Peace Corps after graduating from Lynn University. He's drawn to people and international experiences. These were key reasons, in fact, why he chose Lynn in the first place.

"I always felt that Lynn had an international energy to it. That was a major attraction for me," he says. "I was able to meet and become friends with people from diverse backgrounds."

After earning his bachelor's degree in business administration with a specialization in international business and a minor in international relations, Gunkelman was eager to apply his education abroad. So, he volunteered with the Peace Corps and in June 2010 was assigned to work in business development in Cameroon.

"I wanted to experience new people, new cultures and learn a language—just break out of the typical lifestyle in the U.S.," says the Morris Township, N.J., native.

Working in Cameroon has fulfilled his wishes and more. "In terms of variety, I was pretty lucky in my assignment. People call Cameroon 'Little Africa,'" he says. "This is because the country has many or all of the features of the continent. The country is bilingual—English and French. In terms of topography, the northern frontiers hold the dry and hot Sahel. Moving into the south, there are thick, mountainous jungles and hilly plains."

During his first three months in Cameroon, he did intensive training, with all-day language classes, and courses in agricultural business—the focus of his work there. "While in training, I was assigned to a local bakery to help improve sales," he recalls. "I quickly saw the life of a local business and practiced French in a working context."

It hasn't always been easy. "There have been so many times I have been frustrated, tired and beaten down by cultural differences," he says. And that includes plumbing, or lack thereof. He adds, "I was not accustomed to using a Turkish toilet—basically, a hole in the ground."

Still, the experience has been worth it. "Your work is appreciated," he says, "and I've been able to meet interesting people from all walks of life."

What's next for Gunkelman? Graduate school. "I've applied to a number of programs," he says. "I'm interested in a joint J.D./M.A. program at Northeastern University, an international economics and policy program at The London School of Economics, and an international business and policy program at George Mason University."

Beyond that, he doesn't have a specific occupation in mind—only that he'd like to be his own boss.

And for the immediate future when he returns home this August?

He's very specific about that: "Take a hot shower and order a massive salad and veal parmigiana—with the bone."

—Liz McKey



Aron Gunkelman and young neighbors (counterclockwise) Michael, Roy and Crespo with a makeshift toy Roy built using flip-flops, a sardine can, bamboo and rubber. "When children in Cameroon build toys," Gunkelman says, "they do it with whatever they can find."



Lynn University is turning 50 in 2012.

Be part of the celebration by telling us what you love most about Lynn.

We may pick your item for our upcoming feature story on
"50 Things We Love About Lynn."

Send us an email at lynnmagazine@lynn.edu.

Please include your name, major, class year and a daytime phone number.
In the subject line of your email, please write: My favorite thing about Lynn.

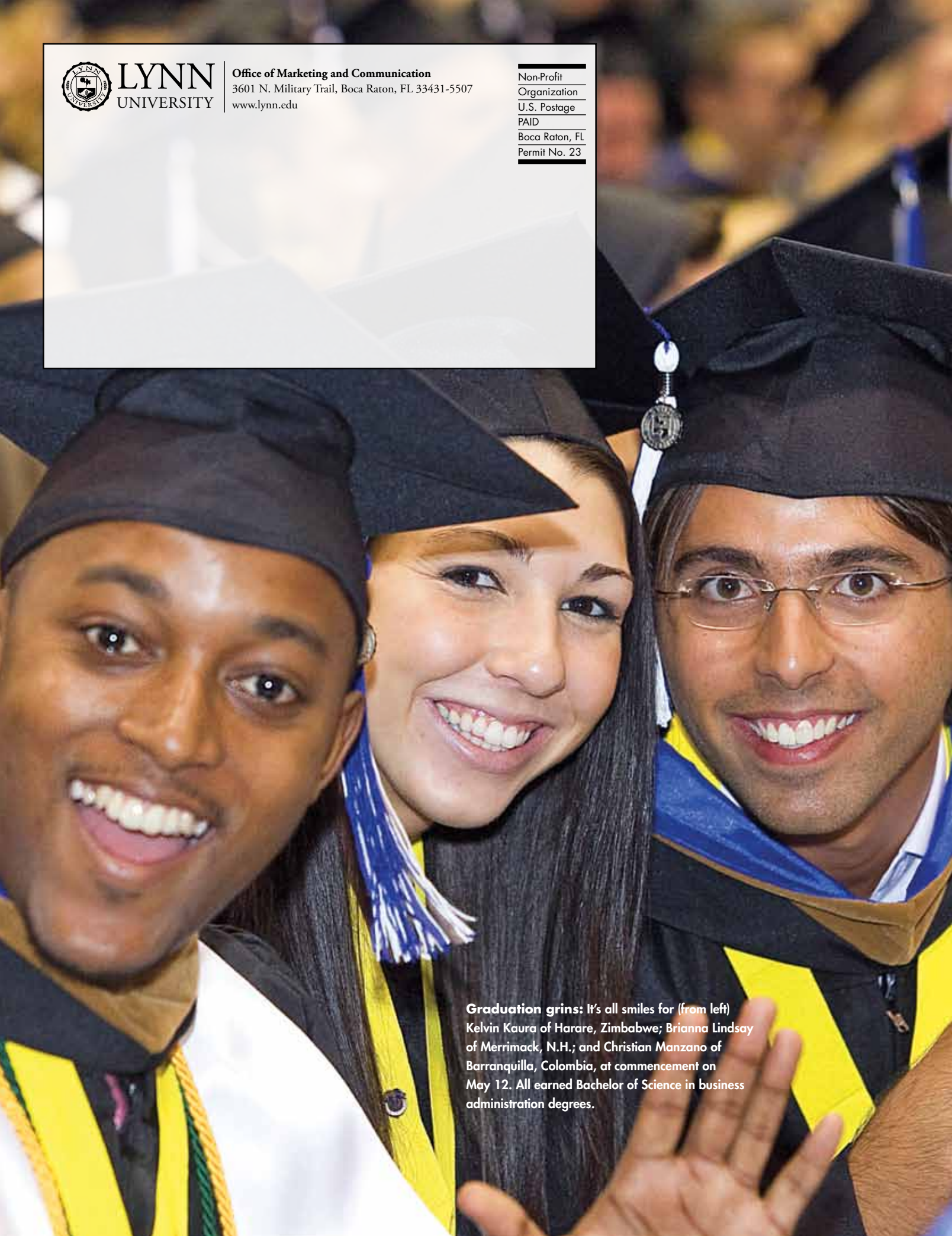




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Graduation grins: It's all smiles for (from left) Kelvin Kaura of Harare, Zimbabwe; Brianna Lindsay of Merrimack, N.H.; and Christian Manzano of Barranquilla, Colombia, at commencement on May 12. All earned Bachelor of Science in business administration degrees.